

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert:

Related Information

This application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/828,039 filed on April 6, 2001. The priority of the prior application is expressly claimed, and the disclosure of this application is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

On page 26, line 14 through page 27 line 5, please replace with the following paragraph:

Finally, the pusher member 20 may be withdrawn, and the opening 95 may be closed, thereby substantially sealing the bladder 12 within the annulus fibrosis 92. The opening 95 may be closed by introducing a plug or other closure member (not shown) into the cavity 96 and/or into the opening 95. The plug may be expandable to engage the annulus fibrosis tissue surrounding the opening 95 and/or may otherwise be secured within the opening 95. In addition, or alternatively, an adhesive or other material may be introduced into the opening 95 to substantially seal it. Additional information on closure devices appropriate for closing an opening through an annular fibrosis and methods for using them may be found in application Serial No. 09/878,030 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_, filed on April 6, 2001 ~~the same day as the present application~~, and entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Closing Openings in Spinal discs" (attorney docket 704117.10260/101). The disclosure of this application, and any references cited therein, is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

Dated: October 22, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

By:   
James W. Geriak, Reg No. 20,233

4 Park Plaza, Suite 1600  
Irvine, CA 92614  
949/567-6700 Telephone  
949/567-6710 Facsimile